

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 206) making minority party appointments for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

So the resolution (S. Res. 206) was agreed to; as follows:

S. RES. 206

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the minority party's membership on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the second session of the 104th Congress, or until their successors are appointed: Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Graham, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Wellstone, and Mrs. Murray.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. DOLE. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

FEDERAL WORKERS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if the majority leader could withhold just another moment, I want it clearly understood from this side that we are in agreement to pass the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act. I believe it should be passed. I do not think it is right to be holding that up. We are also willing to pass the back-to-work provision. After all, we agreed to it and worked on drafting it last week.

I would express the same concern I expressed earlier today, that it is very difficult for Federal workers, who do want to go back to work, who are unable to pay their bills as time goes on, who are greatly needed just to have this country run the way it is supposed to, not going back to work, and yet they have seen, frankly, in the other body those who did not want to take this up have the taxpayers pay for their airfare to go back home for Christmas vacation and to pay their salaries of about \$500 a day every day they are home for Christmas vacation, and have them say, "We can't go forth." I think that is wrong.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDERS FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1995

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in recess until 10 a.m., Saturday, December 30, that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period for morning business for not to extend beyond 10:30

a.m., with statements limited to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DOLE. The Senate will be in tomorrow. It says here "briefly." I am not certain of that. We may be in recess for a considerable time, but the Senate will be in tomorrow. Unless there is something developing fairly early tomorrow, we will try to come back and recess the Senate. We will not be in session—let us see. We will make that determination tomorrow. Tuesday, that may happen because right now there is the urgency to get the Federal employees back to work. So it could even be Monday that we would be in session. So I am not going to refer to some of these things.

But in the event we are not in session until Wednesday, we will be in at 11:55 a.m., Wednesday, and we will adjourn the first session of the 104th Congress; and then the second session of the 104th Congress will begin at noon on Wednesday. I do not anticipate any rollcall votes. I have told my colleagues on both sides of the aisle we at least will give them 24 hours notice. It is hoped if we reach some agreement on Federal employees we could do it by unanimous consent. If there is a rollcall vote, we will try to give ample notice because I know some people have to come from some distance.

Is there anything else?

Mr. LEAHY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, first, I want to repeat what I said earlier today. I commend the distinguished majority leader and the distinguished Democratic leader for their efforts. And I commend the President of the United States. I have talked with the distinguished majority leader about this, and without going into that discussion, I have discussed it also with the distinguished Democratic leader, and I have discussed the budget discussions with the President. I am absolutely convinced that all three want to find our way out of this. I am also convinced that the Republican leader, the Democratic leader, and the President want to have a balanced budget by the year 2002.

Obviously, as I said earlier today, there will not be a budget that has everything President Clinton wants in it and there will not be a budget that has everything the distinguished majority leader wants in it or the distinguished Democratic leader wants in it or everything I might want in it. But we can reach agreement.

I am concerned that some in the other body seem to think of this as some kind of a holy crusade where they must have every single item they can

think of, irrespective of the damage it does to the majority of House and Senate Members of both parties. That is not what was considered by the Founders of this country. It is not the reason we have different parties. It is not the reason why we have two bodies of the Congress and a President.

It is difficult for other countries around the world to look at this, the most powerful Nation on Earth, the largest economy on Earth, a democracy which is held up as a shining example around the world, to see us paralyzed in this way. It is not the way it was intended to be. It is not the way it should be.

So I suggest that perhaps it is time to stop the gimmicks of holding up tin foil keys or saying we will be here and work this out, and then immediately afterward hopping on an airplane at taxpayers' expense to go home for Christmas vacation, and to do what the distinguished majority leader and the distinguished Democratic leader and the President are doing, sit down and try to work this out.

But I hope, Mr. President, and I believe I am joined by most Members of this body in this hope, that we let those Americans who are out of work in the Federal Government, who have a vital role to play in making the greatest, most powerful Nation on Earth operate, let them go back to work.

Every one of us joined in sorrow when so many of those Federal workers in the home State of the distinguished Presiding Officer died. We did not ask whether they were Republicans or Democrats, liberals or conservatives, we just knew that brave Americans who support our country and help our country operate died in the terrible terrorist blast.

But we have a lot of other Americans too who come with pride to work for their country. And that pride has to be shaken. And their whole question of being has to be shaken. I hope we can put them back to work. And I hope that we can show the rest of the country and the rest of the world how a great nation operates in a democracy.

Certainly that does not mean that I will agree with everything that the distinguished majority leader might propose in this budget, nor he with me, nor perhaps either one of us with all the things that the President might propose. But I have been here for 21 years, the distinguished majority leader has been here for 27 years, and had served with distinction in the other body prior to that. He and I have been on many committees of conference. We have been in many leadership meetings where we have debated proposals. We know that nobody ever walks out a winner on every single point that they came in wanting.

But I think it is safe to say he and I many times have been in meetings, sometimes contentious, sometimes not, but ultimately everybody wanted to do what was best for the country. So I wish him well. I wish Senator DASCHLE